

THE BUTTERFLIES OF SPRINGSURE, CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, QUEENSLAND

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The township of Springsure lies approximately 275 kilometres (170 miles) W.S.W. of Rockhampton. The average rainfall is 63 cm (25 inch) and the soil is poor, resulting in a light vegetative cover consisting notably of eucalypts, macrozamia and grasses including spinifex (*Triodia*). Scattered table-topped hills surround the township and close by to the north west the larger and more rugged Mt. Zamia dominates the skyline. From this protrudes a large rock known locally as Virgin Rock, the top of which rises some 245 metres (800 ft) above the town. It was on Mt. Zamia, and in particular from the top of Virgin Rock, that many of the butterflies listed below were taken.

No butterflies appear to have previously been recorded from the Springsure district. The following list records 32 species of which 31 were taken by the author during nine days intensive collecting from 25th August to 2nd September, 1971. Although good rains had fallen in the district just prior to, and early in the visit, butterflies were very scarce. However, this survey was conducted comparatively early in spring and no doubt many other species will be found to occur in the area, especially during warmer months.

One additional species taken by Mr. A. Atkins and additional records and notes supplied by Mr. Atkins and by Mr. W. J. Wilson are also included.

The nomenclature used for the butterflies listed here follows that of Common & Waterhouse (1972).

HESPERIIDAE

1. *Trapezites eliena* (Hewitson). 1 ♀ taken, 1 other seen. Previously taken in western Queensland at Mitchell (Edwards, 1948).
2. *Ocybadistes walkeri sothis* Waterhouse. Common, 10 ♂, 2 ♀ taken, others seen. Previously taken in western Queensland at Mitchell (Edwards, 1948).

PAPILIONIDAE

3. *Papilio aegaeus aegaeus* Donovan. 2 battered and worn ♂ taken. 1 other ♂ seen.
4. *Papilio demoleus sthenelus* W. S. Macleay. Common. 5 ♂ taken. Mostly fresh specimens.
5. *Cressida cressida cressida* (Fabricius). 1 ♂, 1 ♀ taken, 2 ♂, 3 ♀ seen. This species not previously recorded so far west.

PIERIDAE

6. *Catopsilia pyranthe crokera* (W. S. Macleay). 2 ♂ taken, 2 other specimens seen.
7. *Catopsilia pomona pomona* (Fabricius). 3 ♂, 3 ♀ taken. Pale form. Common.
8. *Eurema hecabe phoebus* (Butler). Scarce. 1 ♂, 1 ♀ taken, 1 other seen.

9. *Eurema smilax* (Donovan). Scarce. 4 ♂, 2 ♀ taken, 1 other seen.
10. *Eurema herla* (W. S. Macleay). Scarce. 1 ♂ taken, 1 other specimen seen.
11. *Elodina parthia* (Hewitson). 2 ♂ taken.
12. *Elodina angulipennis* (H. P. Lucas). Common. 1 ♂ taken. Female seen laying eggs on *Capparis canescens* Banks ex B.C. This species not previously recorded so far west.
13. *Delias argenthona argenthona* (Fabricius). Scarce. 1 ♂, 1 ♀ taken, 1 other specimen seen.
14. *Delias aganippe* (Donovan). Common. 4 ♂, 1 ♀ taken, several other specimens seen.
15. *Anaphaeis java teutonia* (Fabricius). Pale form. 1 ♂, 2 ♀ taken and 4 other specimens seen. All migrating south and all on Mt. Zamia on 29th August. Condition good.
16. *Cepora perimale scyllara* (W. S. Macleay). 1 ♂ taken, brown hind-wing form. This species not previously recorded so far west.
17. *Pieris rapae rapae* (Linnaeus). 1 ♂, 1 ♀ taken, 3 others seen. These records greatly extend the western distribution of this species in Queensland.

NYMPHALIDAE

18. *Danaus chrysippus petilia* (Stoll). Common. 2 ♀ taken. Small larvae and eggs found on Red Milkweed *Asclepias curassavica* L.
19. *Euploea core corinna* (W. S. Macleay). Common. 1 ♂ taken, several other specimens seen.
20. *Hypocysta pseudirius* Butler, 1 ♂ taken.
21. *Polyura pyrrhus sempronius* (Fabricius). 1 seen.
22. *Vanessa kershawi* (McCoy). Very common. 2 ♀ taken.
23. *Precis villida calybe* (Godart). Scarce. 1 very battered ♂ taken, 1 other specimen seen.
24. *Acraea andromacha andromacha* (Fabricius). Common. 4 ♂, 1 ♀ taken. In general, specimens smaller than normal.

LYCAENIDAE

25. *Ogyris genoveva duaringa* Bethune-Baker. 12 ♂ taken in fresh condition on top of Virgin Rock, Mt. Zamia. These records extend the known western range of this race which has previously been recorded only as far west as Duaringa. Although an extensive search was made for the breeding sight this was not located and adults were not observed flying elsewhere in the district. 15 larvae were later collected by A. Atkins on 30th April, 1972, 3 miles west of Springsure on the Tambo road. These were under rocks at the

Plates opposite:

Above: The author collecting on the top of Virgin Rock, Mt. Zamia. The township of Springsure and one of several table-topped hills in the district can be seen in the background.

Below: Virgin Rock, Mt. Zamia, as seen from Mt. Zamia itself. The far side falls vertically some 180 metres (600').



- base of a mistletoe-infested Bloodwood eucalypt and attended by a large yellow and black *Camponotus* ant.
26. *Ogyris zosine typhon* Waterhouse & Lyell. Larvae and pupae of both the blue and purple forms were found by A. Atkins on 30th April, 1972. 2 larvae and 1 pupa, collected at a creek 1 mile north of Springsure on the Emerald road, emerged as 2 ♂ and 1 ♀ of the blue form. These were under bark at the base of a mistletoe-infested Forest Red Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis* Sm. and were attended by a small brown *Camponotus* ant. 5 larvae and 1 pupa collected 3 miles west of Springsure on the Tambo road produced adults of the purple form. These were found under bark at the base of mistletoe-infested Bloodwood and Box eucalypts and were attended by a large dark *Camponotus* ant. This species had previously been taken at Clermont.
 27. *Ogyris oroetes* Hewitson. 1 ♂ taken, Virgin Rock, Mt. Zamia. W. J. Wilson found one larva 3 miles north of Springsure on 5th September, 1971 which he successfully bred through. A. Atkins also found 3 pupae, without ants, under bark of a mistletoe-infested Forest Red Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis* Sm. on 30th April, 1972.
 28. *Syntarucus plinius pseudocassius* (Murray). Common. 1 ♂, 3 ♀ taken.
 29. *Theclinesthes miskini* (T. P. Lucas). Common. 8 ♂ taken. Many *Macrozamia moorei* F. Muell., probably the local food plant of this species, are in the area. This extends the known western limit of *T. miskini*, especially in Queensland.
 30. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus). Scarce, 2 ♀ taken. No others seen.
 31. *Zizina otis labradus* (Godart). Common. 1 ♂ taken.
 32. *Candalides heathi heathi* (Cox). Rare. 1 ♀ taken.

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References

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